



## Population dynamics and climate change: What are the links?

---

**Author(s):** Stephenson J, Newman K, Mayhew S  
**Year:** 2010  
**Journal:** Journal of Public Health. 32 (2): 150-156

---

### Abstract:

Climate change has been described as the biggest global health threat of the 21(st) century. World population is projected to reach 9.1 billion by 2050, with most of this growth in developing countries. While the principal cause of climate change is high consumption in the developed countries, its impact will be greatest on people in the developing world. Climate change and population can be linked through adaptation (reducing vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change) and, more controversially, through mitigation (reducing the greenhouse gases that cause climate change). The contribution of low-income, high-fertility countries to global carbon emissions has been negligible to date, but is increasing with the economic development that they need to reduce poverty. Rapid population growth endangers human development, provision of basic services and poverty eradication and weakens the capacity of poor communities to adapt to climate change. Significant mass migration is likely to occur in response to climate change and should be regarded as a legitimate response to the effects of climate change. Linking population dynamics with climate change is a sensitive issue, but family planning programmes that respect and protect human rights can bring a remarkable range of benefits. Population dynamics have not been integrated systematically into climate change science. The contribution of population growth, migration, urbanization, ageing and household composition to mitigation and adaptation programmes needs urgent investigation.

**Source:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/pubmed/fdq038>

### Resource Description

#### Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Human Conflict/Displacement, Temperature

**Temperature:** Fluctuations

#### Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

#### Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

**Non-United States:** Africa

**Health Co-Benefit/Co-Harm (Family Planning/Population Reduction):** 

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to promote family planning or reduce population growth as a climate change adaptation or mitigation measure

A focus of content

**Health Impact:** 

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Developmental Effect

**Developmental Effect:** Reproductive

**Intervention:** 

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

A focus of content

**Mitigation/Adaptation:** 

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation, Mitigation

**Population of Concern:** A focus of content

**Other Vulnerable Population:** developing countries

**Resource Type:** 

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

**Timescale:** 

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

**Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:** 

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content